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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/477,405	01/04/2000	TATSUYA FUJIKI	1442.1007	9196
21171	7590	10/22/2003	EXAMINER	
			LEA EDMONDS, LISA S	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2835

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/477,405	FUJIKI ET AL. <i>LL</i>
	Examiner Lisa Lea-Edmonds	Art Unit 2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>9/8/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yanagisawa et al. (5805412). With respect to claims 11-13, Yanagisawa et al. teaches a function expanding device (300) comprising a first connection (312a, 312b, 324, 325, 326) connectable to the function expanding device which stores a unit that expands a function of electronic hardware (100); a second connection part (321) being connectable to the electronic hardware; an operation part for the unit; and a display part (351) as claimed. With respect to claim 10, Yanagisawa et al. teaches a port replicator (200) having a third connection part (222) being connectable to the second connection part of the function expanding device; and a fourth connection part (221) being connectable to the electronic hardware (100) as claimed (see for example figures 1-15 and column 4 line 27 through column 16 line 4). With respect to the control part as claimed, the apparatus of Yanagisawa et al. is silent on the matters. However, the control part is inherent to a computer system comprising a drive unit having at least one control part such as a play, a on/off, a stop, an eject, and/or open/close key etc..
3. Claims 1-6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. (20020008497). The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This

rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131. With respect to claims 1-9 and 8, Tanaka et al. teaches a function expanding device (60) comprising a first connection part (83) connectable to a unit (110, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180) which expands a function of an electronic device (40); a second connection part (95) connectable to the electronic hardware (40); an operation part (which is inherent to any music CD drive, a CD-ROM drive, A DVD-ROM drive, and a LS-120 drive) that enables a user to drive the unit (110, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180) independent of driving the unit (110, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180) by the electronic hardware (40); and a housing (70) forming the first and second connection parts; wherein the function expanding device (60) further comprises a control part which may control the unit (110, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180) independent of the electronic hardware (40); wherein the operation part may power on at least part of the electronic hardware (40); wherein the second connection part (95) is connectable to a port replicator, and connectable to the electronic hardware (40) via the port replicator, wherein the second connection part (95) has a cable (see lines 1-3 on page 8); and wherein unit (110, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180) is selected from a group of a music CD drive, a CD-ROM drive, A DVD-ROM drive, and a LS-120 drive, and the first connection part (83) has a bay structure compatibly to either drive in the group (see for example figures 2-26). With respect to claims 2-4, it is noted that applicant's use of the term "may" does not impart structural nor positive limitations on the work or phrase preceding it. The term "may" merely indicates a certain measure of likelihood or possibility.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said

subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Jacobs et al. (6073187). With respect to claims 7 and 9, Tanaka et al. teaches the invention as set forth by claim 1 above, however, Tanaka et al. lacks a clear teaching of the use of a display part which displays a status of the unit and the second connector part (95) having an IDE interface and a music interface as claimed. The apparatus of Jacobs et al. teaches a display part, which displays a status of the unit and a connector part having an IDE interface and a music interface as claimed (see for example figures 4-6 and column 3 line 3 through column 9 line 67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Jacobs et al. into the apparatus of Tanaka et al. to provide the user with means to view the status of the unit (110, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180) and means to communicate therewith.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 09/08/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to applicant's remarks concerning the Drawings, applicant is thanked for submitting a new figure 9 including the legend "Prior Art". Applicant is also thanked for correcting the inconsistencies identified in previous Office Actions. With respect to applicant's remarks concerning the Rejection of Claims 10-13, referring to claim 10, it is the position of the examiner of record that Yanagisawa et al. teaches a port replicator that is "detachably connectable" (see figures 5, 6) to a function expanding device as claimed. Referring to claim 11-13, It is also the position of the examiner of record that Yanagisawa et al. teaches the claimed invention, in that figures 6 and 9 show the two connection parts as claimed. It is respectively noted that figure 9 does not describe a modification of figure 6, instead it describes a state of the security key. With respect to applicant's remarks concerning the Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 8 and the Rejection of Claims 7-9, it is the position of the examiner of record that the operation part of Tanaka et al. is inherent to any music CD drive, a CD-ROM drive, A DVD-ROM drive, and a LS-120 drive.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa Lea-Edmonds whose telephone number is 703-305-0265. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on 703-308-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-1782.

Lisa Lea-Edmonds
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2835

